

EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

School Committee Meeting

Martin Middle School Cafeteria

111 Brown Street

East Providence, Rhode Island 02914

March 22, 2011

Mr. Tsonos, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:30PM. School Committee members present: Stephen Furtado, Chrissy Rossi, Ryan Tellier, Charles Tsonos (Luisa Abatecola was absent). Also present: Dr. Mario F. Cirillo, Jr., Superintendent of Schools, Andrew Thomas, Esq.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag & Moment of Silence were observed.

Public Comment I –Mr. Stephen Prew, Assistant Principal of Martin Middle School, expressed thanks to administrators and Pupil Personnel staff members for the support and assistance provided to the school staff and students while the school was dealing with the unexpected loss of a student last week. Mr. Prew also expressed special thanks to Mrs. Luisa Abatecola for her assistance.

Mr. Furtado motioned to change the order of the agenda and move to Item 1 under H. New Business, seconded by Mrs. Rossi. Vote 4-0.

Lions Club International Art Contest - Mr. Tsonos introduced Mr. Capello of the Lions Club who addressed the School Committee

regarding the Lions' International Peace Poster Contest; the theme of which is "Children Know Peace." He asked for School Committee support to be able to meet with the principals before the end of this school year to gain consensus to go forward with the project in the next school year.

Reports: Superintendent's Report

Bradley Presentation – Ms. Cheryl Ursillo, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, introduced Dr. Anne Walters and Dr. Karen Camuso of the Bradley Partnership Program who presented information regarding the partnership between the School Department and Bradley supporting East Providence students and staff. Discussion regarding the benefits of the program. Dr. Cirillo explained that students who were previously assigned to out-of-district placements were now being educated in East Providence schools through the Bradley Partnership Program.

PBGR Discussion – Janet Sheehan, Principal of East Providence High School, updated the School Committee regarding students' progress and milestones; 118 students have now completed their Senior Project. Portfolio meetings are held twice per week after school along with Portfolio camp on Saturdays. Students have five opportunities to succeed by completing their graduation requirements.

Dr. Cirillo informed the School Committee that a letter was received on March 21st from NEASC which voted to accept the Two-Year

Progress Report of East Providence High School and to continue the school's accreditation. Although progress had been made and commendations made, cited concerns must still be satisfactorily resolved. Ms. Sheehan attributed this as a testament to great faculty, students, technology, and a spotlight on teaching and learning; however, going forward a progress report is due by June and specific facilities issues still need to be addressed.

Mr. Glen Piros, Principal of Martin Middle School, presented a PowerPoint regarding state NECAP scores; he announced that Martin Middle School was identified as one of two public middle schools with statistically significant gains in reading and math from 2009 to 2010 (a 10% overall increase in reading and a 5% overall increase in math results). Students, parents and educators were congratulated for a job well done.

Master Mentor Evaluators - Dr. Caswell reported that following discussions at a prior meeting, our district will be proposing two full time and three part-time evaluators to meet new RIDE standards; the mentors will be attending training which will take place in April. East Providence will be on the only district in RI to have its own certified staff members. Positions are funded through the Race to the Top grant money and the positions will be re-evaluated in February next year.

School Calendar 2010-2011- Superintendent requested that this item

be tabled pending further discussion with the teachers' union.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes – A motion was made by Mr. Tellier to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2011 meeting, seconded by Mr. Furtado. Vote 4-0.

Action Items

Young Democrats Club – High School – Motion to approve by Mrs. Rossi, seconded by Mr. Tellier. Vote 4-0.

Requisitions – Bill List

Warrant #1076	3/11/11	\$	266.00
Warrant #1077	3/14/11	\$	4762.82
Warrant #10778	3/17/11	\$	-32,571.51
Warrant #1079	3/17/11	\$	885, 582.77

Motion was made by Mrs. Rossi to approve, seconded by Mr. Tellier. Vote 4-0.

II.B1. Budget and II.B.2. Budget Planning – A motion was made by Mr. Tellier to approve second passage of revised policies, seconded by Mr. Furtado. Vote 4-0.

Personnel Appointments – Mrs. Patti Whalen presented the items:

Wendy Aurelio Teacher Assistant Portfolio Camp – East Providence High School

Keith Anderson 3/5-5/5 Business Teacher – East Providence High School (Schedule Change) Effective 01/28/2011

Kimberly Laliberte Master Mentor Evaluator – Full Time

Sandra Forand Master Mentor Evaluator – Full Time

Motion by Mr. Tellier to approve, seconded by Mrs. Rossi. Roll call vote: Mr. Furtado, aye; Mrs. Rossi, aye; Mr. Tellier, aye; Mr. Tsonos, nay; vote 3-1.

Old Business

Deficit Reduction Plan

Discussion - Conversation about it at last night's meeting; still looking at TANS and would like to see if it is viable or try something else along those lines. Mary King reported that meetings were held with Mr. Andreoni and other city officials; put together more information and speak with Mayor Rogers and the City Council members; no other ideas; we need to come up with other ideas, but this is the only path at this point.

Recess/Reconvene

New Business

Policy Changes First Reading – Motion by Mr. Tellier to table three proposed policies: Central Administration Organization and Contracts, Transfer of Monies within the School Department, and Mandatory advise and consent by School Committee prior to being hired; motion seconded by Mrs. Rossi. Vote 4-0.

Repairs to High School – Infrastructure & Fire Alarm – Mary King reported that last week the fire alarm went out and the communications system company would not come in for service without first receiving payment; vendors will not service us and are asking for C.O.D. or not at all; we need to continue to work together to work out the deficit and talking about it is a good start. In response to Mr. Furtado's question if any of the bond money had been allocated to alarms, Mary King responded that the first part of the \$15 Million bond money is upgrades rather than repairs, and this was a repair due to an immediate communication issue.

Mr. Tsonos asked about issues in the basement of the High School. Mr. Feola, Manager of the High School facility explained that the 1950's building has a lot of issues; there was water coming in the window wells and some of the piping had let go. Mr. Teller and the Superintendent will be viewing it tomorrow morning. Mr. Tsonos asked if there was any imminent danger; Mr. Feola explained that some of the pipes could go at any time; maintenance is stopping the water coming in through the windows. Mr. Tsonos asked if a plan

had been put into place. Mr. Feola is putting together a list for the Superintendent; the bond addresses some of the piping problems.

Dr. Cirillo explained that after going to the high school, he asked for a list to be prepared; the bond only takes care of about 30% of what needs to be done there; the building appraisal lists over \$100,000 in repairs and the Superintendent is preparing a prioritized list for the School Committee. The piping can be replaced during the summer. Mr. Furtado had a concern about any critical issues that could affect opening the school. Mr. Tsonos requested a timeline as to when the School Committee would receive the list of priorities and the items not covered by the bond.

Discretionary Spending - Mr. Tellier requested that purchases, other than dire needs, be put on hold for the remainder of the fiscal year in light of the deficit; he asked about any future RFP's and requested that the School Committee receive a plan of purchases for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Mary King, Finance Director, reported that there are no RFP's coming up; she had discussions with the principals and there is a balancing act to make sure we have the money for the start of school in September and October; she approves all orders and most are for supplies; there is not a lot of money to spend; she will continue to have discussions and plan with the principals for the rest of this year and for the new school year.

Discussion of School Committee Sub-Committees – Mr. Tsonos preferred discussion in executive session.

Violation of Nepotism Policy – Mrs. Rossi placed this item on the agenda because the School Committee became aware of an infraction; they will continue to watch the record.

Public Comment II – Mary Teixeira attended two meetings this week and continues to hear there is no place to get money, but we can't take anything away. She contributed about \$7000 to the deficit and she questioned the amount of administrators and their salaries while we are in dire straits. She thought everyone should have to feel the pain; and even if a fantastic model had been implemented, she questioned whether there was the money to do it. She talked about the Master Mentor Evaluators and the fact that we don't have the money to do this with our own people. After her salary was cut, she lives on a lot less and during these times, we all have to; if we had more revenues in the city, we would have less problems; this is a great city and promotes education; have taken a beating the last few years; she is proud of being part of the solution; all have taken cuts, including secretaries, custodians, and others. She asked how many people need cell phones; we need to start saying "can we afford it until we get to the other side". The Mayor of Providence and administration took a pay cut; she would like everyone to step up. Mr. Tsonos thanked her for being part of the solution.

Announcements

Mrs. Rossi announced the “Flamingo” fundraiser to benefit Post Prom activities; volunteers are needed for that event; the K-Rob Foundation Family Fun Days; the Rebuilding RI on April 30th which will benefit Oldham and Whiteknact Schools. Mr. Tellier announced that Kent Heights will hold a silent auction fundraiser on March 25th to benefit the playground fund and the Martin Middle School Fair will be held next weekend.

**A motion was made by Mr. Furtado, seconded by Mrs. Rossi to convene in Executive Session for purposes of discussing:
Personnel: R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-5(a) (1): Superintendent’s Evaluation and Contract Litigation/Potential Litigation: R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-5(a) (2): CTC Investigation; Chief Operating Officer’s Contract. Vote 4-0.**

Return to Public Session

Report Executive Session Votes – No Votes Taken

Motion by Mr. Tellier to seal the minutes of the executive session and to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Rossi. Vote 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant

Stephen Furtado, Clerk of the Committee